



## **CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM REQUIREMENTS**

### **IN THE CITY OF GAITHERSBURG**

**UPDATED TO REFLECT CITY ADOPTED NEW STATE OF MARYLAND REQUIREMENTS  
FOR RENTAL DWELLINGS ONLY**



- Per the Maryland State law requirement that will take effect in April of 2018; each new and existing rental dwelling unit requires the installation of carbon monoxide alarms. This includes any type of dwelling unit that can be rented to an individual or family.

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms can be of one (1) of the following type;

- a. Hardwired CO alarm with a battery backup.
- b. Single-station CO alarm that is powered by a 10-year battery in a sealed tamper resistant compartment.
- c. AC Plug-in CO alarm with battery backup\*
  - \*It is recommended for multi-family units is to install plug-In CO alarms with a 10-year lithium battery with a sealed tamper resistant compartment or to replace the current hard-wired smoke alarms with a combination smoke alarm/carbon monoxide alarm unit.
- d. Connected to an on-site control unit that monitors the carbon monoxide alarm remotely so that a responsible party is alerted when the device activates the alarm signal and receives its primary power from a battery or the control unit.

The installation of new carbon monoxide alarms shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and NFPA 720 for the *Installation of Carbon Monoxide Warning Equipment in Dwelling Units*. Carbon monoxide alarms must be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory that is approved by the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal.

#### Installation Tips:

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Every model of carbon monoxide alarm is tested according to manufacturer specifications. It is important to take those specifications into account when you are deciding where to place your alarm.
- CO alarms are **not** substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and the sound of CO alarms.
- Do not install CO alarms in close proximity to any fuel-burning appliance, in humid areas such as bathrooms, in direct sunlight or near any sources of blowing air such as a fan, vent or open window.

For more information, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) or [www.usa.fema.gov](http://www.usa.fema.gov)

For questions, contact any of the City Fire Marshal's staff by email at [FireMarshal@gaitHERSBURGMD.GOV](mailto:FireMarshal@gaitHERSBURGMD.GOV) or via phone at 301-258-6330.

For information on Smoke Alarm Requirements click [here](#).